

PANOLIN filled machine used for underwater excavation close to beach



European standards for beach cleanliness include a directive for the discharge of waste water into the sea.

Forness Point, Margate is the site of an £80 million upgrade to the wastewater treatment scheme which will serve Margate and Broadstairs and will comply to this stringent directive, discharging treated water out to sea.

Long reach specialists, WM Plant Hire, mounted a 45 tonne Caterpillar long reach excavator onto a 30 m x 9 m self propelled dredge pontoon to complete the complex underwater excavations over 600 m offshore.

The work called for a very high degree of precision with the excavator being positioned using GPS survey equipment from the shore and the dig parameters set to a Prolec underwater system fitted to the excavator and linked to the pontoon wheelhouse.

The excavation measuring 30 m long x 8 m wide x 4 m deep was completed using a conventional bucket and a diamond tipped milling machine.

«With a tidal range of around 4 m and a depth of 16 m at high water, strong tidal currents and an exposed headland location over a rock ledge, we knew that this was going to be a very challenging working environment. We specified PANOLIN HLP SYNTH as factory fill confident in the knowledge that the machine would not let us down and reliability would be excellent. We were also confident that if a leak did occur, pollution of the sea and the beach would be kept to the absolute minimum in line with our environmental obligations» commented Brendan McGettrick, Director of WM Plant.